

REMARKS

The drawings were objected to for including reference numbers which were not mentioned in the specification. Applicants have presented amendments to the specification as noted above which address this issue.

Claim 6 was objected to because of a noted informality. Claim 6 has been amended to address this issue.

Claims 1, 3, 6-8, 10, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 23, 26 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lin. Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

In claim 1, Applicants claim “a repository storing a general set of self-checking tests applicable to integrated circuits.” The Examiner points to Lin sections 2 and 4.1 as meeting this limitation. Applicants respectfully disagree. Lin section 2 refers to a “test plan” but does not mention a general set of self-checking tests applicable to integrated circuits or the storage of such tests in a repository. Lin section 4.1 discusses the test plan, but clearly indicates that the test plan is developed by the designer as a document defining test cases. There is no repository and there is no indication as to a general set of self-checking tests applicable to integrated circuits. What appears to be the case is that Lin teaches designer developed test plans which are configured and unique to the specific device under test. This appears to be emphasized by Figure 1 of Lin which illustrates that a graphical user interface is provided for test planning. It is thus clear that the test plan is a user entered function, not a repository driven specification of a general set of self-checking tests applicable to integrated circuits as claimed. Still further the Lin system will not “automatically generat[e] test benches in said Hardware Description Language” based on “a selection and setup of suitable tests from said repository.”

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Lin. Claims 2-7 are patentable over the art for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claims 8-14 are patentable over Lin for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Turning next to claim 15, Applicants claim “compar[ing] the specific integrated circuit model to characteristic data in the repository to identify tests applicable to that specific integrated circuit model.” The Examiner points to Lin sections 2, 3 and 4.1 as meeting this limitation. Applicants respectfully disagree. Lin section 2 refers to a “test plan” but does not mention that the tests applicable to the specific integrated circuit model are identified based on a processing operation which compares the model to characteristic data. Lin section 3 discusses developing the test bench itself, but does not discuss how the actual tests which are run are developed. Lin section 4.1 discusses the test plan, but clearly indicates that the test plan is developed by the designer as a document defining test cases. There is no processing operation which generates the tests. What appears to be the case is that Lin teaches designer developed test plans which are configured and unique to the specific device under test. This appears to be emphasized by Figure 1 of Lin which illustrates that a graphical user interface is provided for test planning. It is thus clear that the test plan is a user entered function. The tests in Lin are not identified based on a processing comparison of the model to the circuit characteristic data as claimed.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 15 is not anticipated by Lin. Claims 16-21 are patentable over the art for at least the same reasons as claim 15.

Claims 22-28 are patentable over Lin for at least the same reasons as claim 15.

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Claims 2, 4, 5, 9, 11-14, 17, 20, 24 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin in view of Bollano. These dependent claims depend from claims which are allowable.

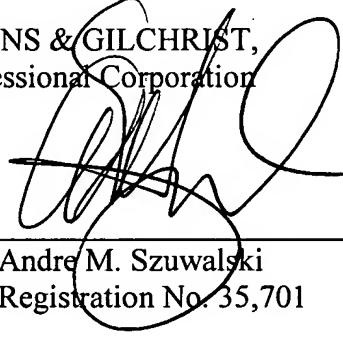
Claims 18 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin in view of Killian. These dependent claims depend from claims which are allowable.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for favorable action and allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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